

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 01677 111551Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CPR-02 SSO-00 /028 W

-----079874 111554Z /44

O 111531Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4699

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1677

DEPARTMENT FOR AF - HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PORG, GV

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOURE REQUESTS STATE VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 228820

1. AT SAME TIME FULLY UNGARBLED TEXT OF REFTEL WAS BEING RECEIVED HERE SEPTEMBER 11, I WAS CALLED TO MINISTRY EXTAFF BY MINISTER CISSOKO WITHOUT NOTICE TO RECEIVE GOG NOTE CONCERNING PRESIDENT TOURE'S PROPOSAL TO RESPOND TO "NUMEROUS INVITATIONS ALREADY ADDRESSED TO (HIM) BY DIFFERENT AMERICAN CHIEF EXECUTIVES" BY PAYING STATE VISIT TO US DURING FIRST 15 DAYS OF OCTOBER THIS YEAR, PREFERABLY STARTING OCTOBER 10. TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL. CISSOKO NOTED THAT DECISION TO REQUEST SUCH VISIT HAD BEEN TAKEN BY POLITBUREAU OF PARTY, BACKED BY "UNANIMITY" OF WHOLE PARTY ORGANIZATION, BECAUSE OF ENORMOUSLY GROWING IMPORTANCE OF GUINEA'S RELATIONS WITH US. PRESIDENT TOURE WOULD HOPE TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER CERTAIN PRESSING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS IN ADDITION TO BILATERAL TOPICS. CISSOKO SAID GUINEANS HOPED NOT ONLY THAT MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE, BUT THAT IT MIGHT BE "FRUITFUL".

2. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT I COULD NOT AT THAT TIME

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PASS ON FULL MESSAGE IN REFTEL IN A "FUNNY-YOU-SHOULD-ASK" NEGATIVE REPLY. I DID POINT OUT TO CISSOKO THAT THE PRESIDENT'S TOTAL ATTENTION WAS CURRENTLY BEING DEVOTED TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, THAT WE KNEW HIS SCHEDULE WAS SO CROWDED THAT HE HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO GIVE UP ALTOGETHER HIS PLANNED ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR'S UNGA.

3. NOW THAT THE GOG REQUEST HAS BEEN FORMALLY MADE, IT WOULD SEEM INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS POINT TO GO TO PRESIDENCY PROTOCOL CHIEF BANGOURA WITH OUR NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO HIS "PERSONAL" RECOMMENDATION OF JULY 15 (CONAKRY 1387) THAT US PRESIDENT MEET WITH TOURE WHILE LATTER IS IN COUNTRY ATTENDING UNGA.

4. DEPARTMENT MAY CONSIDER THAT AN INFORMAL MESSAGE SHOULD NEVERTHELESS GO FORWARD TO GUINEAN SIDE IN ADVANCE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE IN REPLY. IF SO, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THERE BE SOMETHING IN THE MESSAGE TO EASE THE PAIN: SOME HOLDING-OUT TO TOURE OF REASONABLE PROSPECT OF PRESIDENTIAL MEETING -- IF NOT STATE VISIT -- AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE. WORDING OF FORMAL NOTE ITSELF WILL BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT; TOURE HAS NOW PUT HIS PRESTIGE SQUARELY ON THE LINE IN THIS MATTER, AND OUR RESPONSE TO HIM WILL BE MATTER OF RECORD. WHILE THE FULL IMPLICATIONS FOR US NATIONAL INTERESTS AND GUINEAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF TOURE'S VERY REAL OPENING TO THE WEST ADMITTEDLY CANNOT BE GAUGED, SIMPLY BECAUSE POLICY DECISIONS HERE ARE SO HIGHLY PERSONALIZED, FOR THAT SAME REASON THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THIS NEW DIRECTION IS SERIOUS IF THE FEELINGS OF THE "SUPREME RESPONSIBLE" ONE ARE BRUISED BY AN ENTIRELY NEGATIVE US RESIONSE.

5. YOUR EARLIEST POSSIBLE GUIDANCE WILL BE WELCOME.
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6. REQUEST AF/W NOTIFY AMBASSADOR CROSBY ASAP.
THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CONAKR01677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780369-0968
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780983/aaaacqmb.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 228820
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1489238
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT TOURE REQUESTS STATE VISIT TO US
TAGS: OVIP, PORG, GV, US, (TOURE, SEKOU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb697053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014